

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12 and 14-15 have been rejected.

Claims 4, 7 and 13 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 14-15 have been amended.

Claims 4, 7 and 13 have been canceled.

By the above amendments and cancellations, Applicants do not concede that the cited art is prior to any invention now or previously claimed. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original versions of the claims in the future, for example, in a continuing application.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that dependent Claims 4, 7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The amendments to independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 are intended to incorporate limitations from Claims 4, 7 and 13 into the corresponding claims from which these dependent claims depended.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12 and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,694,338, issued to Lindsay ("Lindsay"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In light of the amendments made to independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 to incorporate limitations from indicated-as-allowable Claims 4, 7 and 13, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections as to Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12 and 14-15 are rendered

moot. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Lindsay fails to provide disclosure of all the limitations of independent Claims 1, 6 and 11, as amended, and all claims depending therefrom, and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

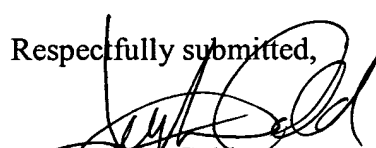
In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 20, 2007.


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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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